

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7514

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 7576

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S SON-IN-LAW COMMENTS ON LUOS

REF: (A) NAIROBI 7432

(B) NAIROBI 5989

1. IN INFORMAL CHAT WITH EMBOFF MAY 17 PRESIDENT'S SON-IN-LAW, UDI GECAGA, COMMENTED ON LUOS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THEIR RECENT CALL ON THE PRESIDENT AT NAKURU (SEE REF B). GECAGA SAID THAT IN ANY NEGOTIATION THERE MUST BE GIVE ON BOTH SIDES. BUT LUOS HAD INSISTED ON INVOLVING OGINGA AND THAT WAS "JUST UNSALEABLE IN CERTAIN QUARTERS." ASKED IF HE WAS SUGGESTING THAT IF OGINGA OGINGA WERE TO BOW OUT AND LEAVE LEADERSHIP OF HIS GROUP TO SOMEONE LIKE ACHIENG ONEKO THAT PRESIDENT WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE PEACE WITH LUOS, GECAGA REPLIED THAT HE "WOULD SAY SO." HE ADDED THAT HE LIKED OGINGA PERSONALLY, BUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN TOO MUCH WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE. HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHEN WOULD LUOS RECOGNIZE THAT IT WAS OGINGA WHO LED THEM INTO POLITICAL WILDERNESS EIGHT YEARS AGO, AND WHO CONTINUES TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OSTRACISM.

2. AT SAME TIME GECAGA EXPRESSED VIEW THAT LUOS WERE
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OVERRATED POLITICALLY. THEY CONTROL NO ELEMENTS OF POWER IN COUNTRY AND FURTHERMORE ARE DIVIDED. HE AGREED THAT SOME DEVICE HAD TO BE FOUND TO ACCOMMODATE SECOND LARGEST TRIBE IN COUNTRY'S POLITICAL SYSTEM, BUT LEFT IMPRESSION THAT NO ONE (OTHER THAN LUOS THEMSELVES) REGARDED THIS AS TOP PRIORITY.

3. COMMENT: GECAGA'S VIEWS ARE SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE OF HIS PROXIMITY TO PRESIDENT AND OTHER MAJOR POLITICAL ACTORS HERE, SUCH AS EX-FONMIN MUNGAI (HIS UNCLE). GECAGA'S VERSION OF REASON FOR FAILURE OF LUO CALL ON PRESIDENT DIFFERS FROM THAT OF ODINGA'S SON-IN-LAW OTIENO AMBALA, (SEE REF A) WHO PUT BLAME ON VP MOI. EMBASSY BELIEVES GECAGA HAS FACTS RIGHT. DESPITE WISHFUL THINKING AMONG LUOS, TO CONTRARY IT IS PRESIDENT KENYATTA HIMSELF WHO REFUSES TO PERMIT ODINGA'S POLITICAL COMBACK.

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